




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Bancroft Electorate; Economy

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.21 pm): Today I rise to talk about the economic strength of Queensland, which is being delivered thanks to the management of the pandemic by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Our health response has helped to create growing economic confidence in Queensland. In the past couple of sittings the Treasurer has said that in Queensland household lending has grown by 52 per cent over the past 12 months, dwelling approvals are up by 32 per cent over the past 12 months and building approvals are up by 39 per cent over the year. The value of Queensland's exports is now \$62.5 billion, which is 26 per cent higher than that of New South Wales.

We have heard from the Treasurer that since March Queensland has added more jobs than any other state or territory, with 67,000 more Queenslanders in jobs today than pre COVID. All in all, our government has overseen the addition of nearly 320,000 new jobs in Queensland since 2015. During the pandemic, not only have we added more jobs than any other state; we have added more jobs than all the others states combined.

Our economy is open and growing because of our health response. Our economy is strong because our Premier has followed the health advice and we have kept Queenslanders safe and able to go to work. That is all possible because Queenslanders have done the right thing. Queenslanders know the right thing to do. They know that the pathway out of this pandemic lies with vaccinations and Queenslanders are getting vaccinated. I have seen that for myself over the past couple of Saturdays. I was at the North Lakes Health Precinct with the Chief Health Officer and the health minister where I talked with the staff at a pop-up clinic. Last Saturday I was at Deception Bay State High School where I spoke with students Riley, Mary and Casey about how they are encouraging their family and friends to get vaccinated. Queenslanders know that vaccination is the right thing to do for their families and they know it is the right thing to do for their businesses and their workers.

As I said, our health response is creating greater economic confidence throughout Queensland. We have seen evidence of that growing economic confidence in Bancroft. Quality Plastic Products will soon be moving to the Narangba Innovation Precinct. QPP is an innovative and inventive local business with a growing list of patents to its name. It employs 13 people. It creates plant nursery products, specifically pots for plants, using injection moulding technology. QPP prides itself on using recycled plastic, creating product lines using biodegradable plastics and closing down the loops of many parts of the circular economy. QPP has invested in a lot of new equipment. I welcome the company to the Narangba Innovation Precinct, which is a perfect home for that great local innovative business.

Many people would have driven past the Narangba Innovation Precinct. It is located on the highway, perfectly situated to take advantage of the Palaszczuk government's embrace of a renewable energy future. As we have heard today, a renewable energy future will mean an expansion worth \$890 billion to our national economy. Throughout Australia that will create 195,000 extra jobs. We can

be a part of that because the Palaszczuk government is embracing a renewable energy future and the green hydrogen industry, and that is possible because people can see that Queenslanders have done the right thing.

Because the Palaszczuk government has made sure that we have the health response right and Queenslanders have done the right thing, we have the economic response right. As we have seen, schools are open, businesses are open and confidence is booming. We will see that confidence expanding in the Narangba Innovation Precinct. One of the reasons for that is we are working with the local government, the Moreton Bay Regional Council, to deliver planning certainty on the estate so that businesses can be certain that when they invest they are in a region that appreciates and recognises what they are doing, helping them to create what we think is about 2,000 local jobs in the manufacturing industry. We have the health response right and that means we have the economic conditions right.